



House Ways and Means Healthcare Subcommittee FY 2022-23 Budget Hearing

*Amanda F. Whittle, J.D., CWLS
Agency Director
January 12, 2022*



South Carolina Department of

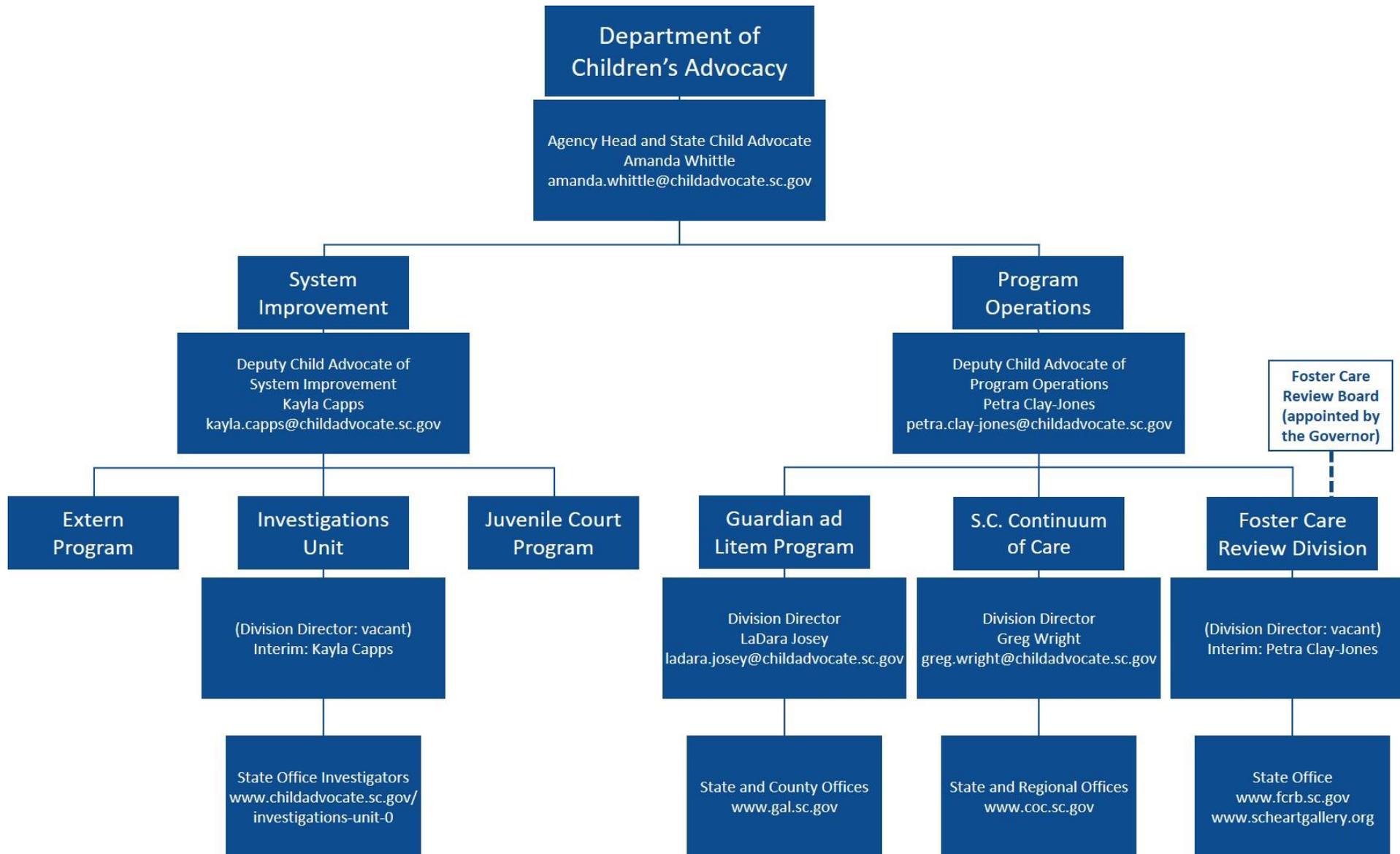
**CHILDREN'S
ADVOCACY**

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Tab 1: Key Officials

Amanda F. Whittle	Agency Director Department of Children's Advocacy
Jason Epting	Agency Budget Director Office of the Executive Director Department of Administration Admin Shared Services

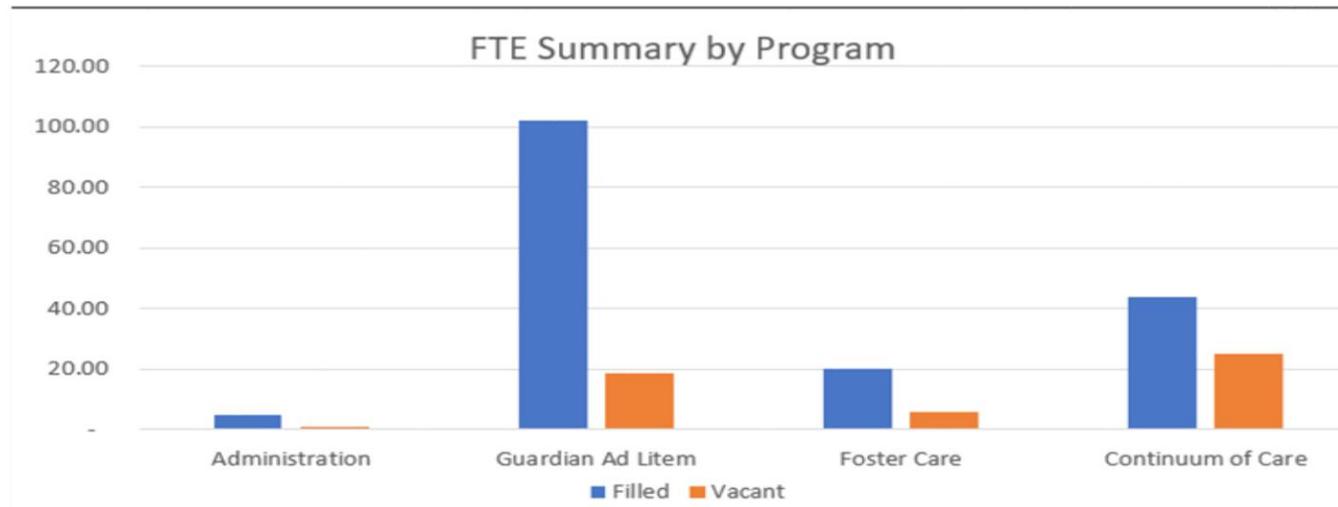
Tab 2: Organizational Chart



Tab 3: FTE Breakdown

Department of Children's Advocacy
FTE Breakdown
As of December 31, 2021

Program	State			Other			Total		
	Filled	Vacant	Total	Filled	Vacant	Total	Filled	Vacant	Total
Administration	5.00	1.00	6.00			-	5.00	1.00	6.00
Programs and Services									
Guardian Ad Litem	53.82		53.82	48.00	18.95	66.95	101.82	18.95	120.77
Foster Care	5.46	1.45	6.91	14.64	4.55	19.19	20.10	6.00	26.10
Continuum of Care	16.65	10.48	27.13	27.43	14.58	42.00	44.08	25.05	69.13
Subtotal Programs & Services	75.93	11.93	87.86	90.07	38.07	128.14	166.00	50.00	216.00
Total	80.93	12.93	93.86	90.07	38.07	128.14	171.00	51.00	222.00



Tab 4: One Page Summary

Department of Children's Advocacy's FY23 Budget Request Summary		
Funding Type (in order of priority)	Funding Amount	Funding Purpose
Recurring: Investigations Unit Infrastructure	\$200,000	To fully staff the Department of Children's Advocacy's Administration and System Improvement Unit - Projections for DCA's FY22 Administration budget are (33,432) if positions are filled based on current funding.
Recurring: Continuum of Care Transfer Alignment	\$400,000	To offset the elimination of a \$400,000 transfer to Continuum of Care by DMH – DMH has requested that the Proviso 35.1 allocation to Continuum of Care be eliminated. This transfer has been in effect for approximately twenty years.
Non-Recurring: Foster Care Review Advocacy Upgrade	\$150,000	To replace the current database with a case management system that drives action and advocacy for children in foster care -The current system is 16 years old and has no technical support.
Recurring: Foster Care Review Advocacy Upgrade	\$200,000	To support staff capacity and training regarding the reviews of children in foster care - The number of children who are reviewed by FCRB has increased by about 33% since this division's FTEs were allocated.
Non-Recurring: Administration Communications	\$ 25,000	To fulfill the mission of educating the public and improving the child-serving system – The agency needs signage, videography, and training for staff, volunteers, other agencies and the public.

Tab 5: Proviso Request Summary

Department of Children's Advocacy FY 2022-2023 Proviso Request Summary

Proviso #	Title	Summary	Action
41.1	DCA: Foster Care-Private Foster Care Reviews	Authorizes the Division of Foster Care to restructure its programs, including but not limited to, suspending reviews of children privately placed in private foster care and/or changing the location of reviews of children in public foster care to maintain continuous operations within existing resources.	Keep
41.2	DCA: Guardian Ad Litem Program	Directs the Department of Revenue to reduce the amount of interest paid on refunds by 2% and deposit the revenue generated by the reduction into the SC Guardian ad Litem Trust Fund to be used to operate the program.	Keep
41.3	DCA: Continuum of Care Carry Forward	Authorizes the Division of Continuum of Care to carry forward funds to the subsequent fiscal year.	Keep

Tab 6: Carry Forward Summary

Fund	Fund Description	Program	Source of Revenue	FY 2021 Ending Balance
10010000	General Fund	All Programs	State funds received through the Appropriations Act.	2,346,665
30980000	Donations	Guardian Ad Litem	Donations received from individuals or other entities.	5,062
34770000	COC Patient Fees DMH	Continuum of Care	Transfers from the SC Dept of Mental Health pursuant to DMH Proviso 35.1	400,000
37600000	Foster Care Medicaid	Foster Care Review Bd	Title IV-E funds received through a contractual agreement with DSS.	618,669
37640000	Medicaid Assist Payments	Continuum of Care	Medicaid Targeted Case Management (MTCM) billings for Wraparound Care coordination.	434,766
37850000	GAL Operating Revenue	Guardian Ad Litem	Title IV-B funds received through a contractual agreement with DSS for the payment of attorneys representing GAL volunteers in child abuse and neglect cases.	1,280,238
37850001	GAL 4E Training Contract	Guardian Ad Litem	Title IV-E funds received through a contractual agreement with DSS to provide training to GAL volunteers.	18,221
39580000	Sale of Assets	All Programs	Proceeds from sale of surplus assets	945
47J77000	Guardian Ad Litem Trust	Guardian Ad Litem	Transfers from the Department of Revenue pursuant to Proviso 41.2.	8,102,148
			Total Carryforward	13,206,714

Tab 7: Federal Relief Funds

Department of Children's Advocacy Federal Relief Funds Summary as of 12/31/2021

Relief Funds Received

Amount	Date Received	Date Required to be Spent	Relief Bill or Fed Grant Title	Summary of Need/Use	Spent	Remaining
\$ 24,217.02	3/1/2020	6/30/2020	CARES Act Phase 1	Purchase of computers and Pulse Secure VPNs.	\$ 24,217.02	\$ -
\$ 195,447.07	7/1/2020	12/31/2020	CARES Act Phase 2	Purchase of laptops, cellphones, webcams, WebEx, and Pulse Secure VPNs	\$ 195,447.07	\$ -

Department of Children's Advocacy Federal Relief Funds Summary as of 12/31/2021

Relief Funds Requested

Amount	Approving Entity	Date Requested	Date Required to be Spent	Relief Bill or Fed Grant Title	Summary of Need/Use
\$ 100,000.00	General Assembly	8/16/2021		ARPA	Capital costs for the Department of Children's Advocacy to procure a case management system for the Foster Care Review Board (FCRB) and Heart Gallery (HG). Expenses associated with this system would be eligible for ARP funding pursuant to Interim Final Rule 2.19.

Tab 8: Accountability Report Summary

Division/Unit	Goal	FY 2020 – 2021 Outcomes
Guardian ad Litem Program	To reduce staff vacancies	Goal exceeded: Reduced from approximately 40% in 2019 to 8% in 2021
	To recruit sufficient volunteers	Goal not met: Goal of 100% by 2024; recruiters are being hired
Continuum of Care	To reduce baseline crisis scores To increase number of youth served	Goal not met: Goal of 30-point reduction; Actual was 25-point reduction New Goal for 2022
Foster Care Review Division	To provide ongoing training to staff and board members	Goal exceeded: The target was 5, but 9 ongoing trainings were held in addition to orientation trainings.
Investigations Unit	To respond to complainant’s initial complaint within 24 hours of receipt	Goal exceeded: Improved from 80% in our first year to 98% in our second year
System Improvement	Encourage collaboration and coordination among state agencies which serve children	Goal exceeded: DCA was involved in presenting and engaging at more than 50 meetings or conferences with numerous child-serving agencies during FY21.
System Improvement	To create and promote a coordinated online resource library for children’s services	Goal exceeded: Completed in 2021

The agency’s full Annual Accountability Report is located online at <https://www.scstatehouse.gov/reports/aar2021/L080.pdf>



Tab 9: Additional Information

- Children's Trust
- South Carolina Network for Children's Advocacy Centers
- Other Child-Serving Agencies



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